

This delegation of authority is effective until July 2, 1993. You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

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NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on July 1.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
the Convention on the Marking of  
Explosives for Detection**

*June 29, 1993*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection with Technical Annex, done at Montreal on March 1, 1991. The report of the Department of State is also enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The terrorist bombing of Pan Am 103 in December 1988 with the resultant deaths of 270 (including 189 Americans), and the terrorist bombing of UTA flight 772 in September 1989 with the resultant deaths of 171 (including 7 Americans), dramatically demonstrate the threat posed by virtually undetectable plastic explosives in the hands of those nations and groups that engage in terrorist savagery.

This Convention is aimed at precluding such incidents from recurring, as well as others where plastic explosives are utilized, by requiring States that produce plastic explosives to mark them at the time of manufacture with a substance to enhance their detectability by commercially available mechanical or canine detectors. States are also required to ensure that controls are implemented over the sale, use, and disposition of marked and unmarked plastic explosives.

Work on the Convention began in January 1990 under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the basis of an initial draft prepared by a special subcommittee of the ICAO Legal Committee. That work was completed, and the Con-

vention was adopted by consensus, at an international conference in Montreal in March 1991. The United States and 50 other States signed the Convention. Early ratification by the United States should encourage other nations to become party to the Convention.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the declaration described in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
June 29, 1993.

**Message on the Observance of  
Independence Day, 1993**

*June 29, 1993*

On Independence Day, we celebrate the birth of the first and greatest democracy of the modern era. The ideals embodied by the Declaration of Independence have served as a guide for our nation and as an inspiration for people around the world. This document delineated the very idea of America, that individual rights are derived not from the generosity of the government, but from the hand of the Almighty. The Founders forever abandoned their allegiance to the old European notions of caste and instead dedicated themselves to the belief that all people are created equal.

The brilliant men who gathered in Philadelphia 218 years ago to declare our nation's independence risked their honor, their fortunes, and their very lives to create a better future for their children and grandchildren. As the inheritors of freedom's legacy, we owe our liberties to the fact that our Founders saw the need for dramatic change and acted upon it.

Today, vast changes are sweeping the globe. Nations that have known only tyranny for centuries are suddenly dedicating themselves to the ideals of freedom and democracy. And wherever freedom is proclaimed, echoes of the American Declaration of Inde-

pendence can be heard. Thomas Jefferson's words are being spoken in dozens of nations in hundreds of languages.

We are justly proud of the influence that our beliefs have had on the world. But the mission of America is far from complete. While the world is filled with opportunity, it is rife with uncertainty. We must dedicate ourselves to carrying on the dreams of the Founders and adding our own chapter to the unfinished American autobiography. By embracing the changes that are altering the landscape of the world today, we help ensure a brighter, more democratic, and more peaceful world. On this Independence Day, I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the conviction that our heroic journey must go forever upward.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful day.

**Bill Clinton**

### **Statement on Flooding in the Midwest**

*June 29, 1993*

I am very concerned about the flooding in the heartland of our country, and I've asked Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to survey the region and see firsthand what the excessive rains have done to agriculture production there. I also have directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to keep me fully informed of their activities on behalf of the affected States.

The Mississippi River is closed to navigation over a 500-mile stretch from the Twin Cities in Minnesota to St. Louis. Clearly, this is one of the most significant natural disasters midwestern residents, business owners, and agricultural producers have faced in a very long time. This region of the country is dependent upon agricultural production, and when agriculture faces a disaster like this one, everyone is adversely affected.

Tomorrow Secretary Espy will travel to Iowa, Wisconsin (weather permitting), Minnesota, and South Dakota to view the rain-related damage and talk face to face with farmers and area residents about the damage.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt reports that his Agency already has placed survey teams in the field where they are working with the State emergency operating centers. These teams are laying the groundwork necessary for Federal disaster assistance. We intend to speed the recovery of the affected communities and ensure disaster victims receive the help they need as rapidly as possible.

Upon his return, Secretary Espy will brief me on the condition of the area and make recommendations that will help our fellow citizens living in the region.

As you know, nine counties in southwestern Minnesota were declared disaster areas in late May. Last week, I granted Governor Arne Carlson's request to extend the incident period to allow for coverage for the torrential rains after May 19th through June.

Wisconsin has been hard hit. The break in the dam at Blackriver Falls has destroyed or damaged over 100 homes. Many of the town's residents have no flood insurance. Governor Tommy Thompson has already asked the National Guard to assist the evacuation of flood victims.

Iowa's Governor Branstad also is using the National Guard to assist flood victims in the eastern part of his State. He has told us that many homes and businesses have been flooded out, and thousands more are at risk if the levee breaks.

The Mississippi River continues to rise in Missouri, threatening towns still dealing with the ravages of the May floods. FEMA teams are in eastern Missouri, continuing to monitor the flooding of the Mississippi. Some areas have been evacuated, and preliminary damage assessment teams are in place for a formal assessment request, pending a call from Governor Mel Carnahan.

I commend the bravery and endurance of the many midwesterners facing torrents of rain and rivers that have not yet crested. We will work together to rebuild your communities as we work together to rebuild America.